

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 AGR-05 FEA-01 INT-05 OES-03 EB-07

AID-05 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OFA-01 /095 W

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TAGS: EAID, ECON, EFIS, EMIN, ENRG, PFOR, HA

SUBJECT: HAITI'S PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. WHEN I CALLED ON PRESIDENT DUVALIER APRIL 28 FOR PERIODIC TOUR D'HORIZON, HE WAS IN PARTICULARLY GOOD SPIRITS, BRIMMING WITH IDEAS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND BUOYED BOTH BY KAUNDA RECEPTION (SEPTEL) AND BY TOUR OF ARTIBONITE VALLEY, DESCHAPELLES, AND MIREBALAIS HE MADE ON SATURDAY DRIVING HIS OWN JEEP. ALONG WAY, HE SAID, HE HAD STOPPED TO TALK WITH PEASANTS WHO, WHEN THEY RECOGNIZED HIM, HAD GREETED HIM WARMLY IN CREOLE AS "THEIR PAPA, THEIR FINE YOUNG PRESIDENT." PRESIDENT HAD ADJURED THEM TO STOP CUTTING DOWN TREES (PARTICULARLY WIDESPRED THIS SPRING BECAUSE OF DELAYED RAINS AND PEASANT HARDSHIP), TO LIMIT THEMSELVES IF NECESSARY TO CUTTING BRANCHES ONLY, AND TO PRACTICE REFORESTATION DILIGENTLY. LIGNITE SUBSTITUTION FOR CHARCOAL FROM WOOD CONTINES TO BE HIS PREFERRED REMEDIAL APPROACH, AND HE EXPRESSED CHAGRIN THAT UNDP STUDY THIS POSSIBILITY FOR KNOWN MAISSADE LIGNITE DEPOSITS HAD YET TO SEE LIGHT OF DAY (SOME TWO YEARS AFTER INCEPTION).

2. PRESIDENT STRESSED OVERRIDING GOH INTEREST IN SECURING
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ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN (A) AGRICULTURE (A PRIORITY WHICH I

ASSURED HIM AID SHARED), (B) DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY SOURCES, AND (C) HYDROLOGICAL CONTROL, ESPECIALLY WATER CATCHMENTS IN PORT-AU-PRINCE AREA, IRRIGATION PROJECTS (HE CITED POTENTIAL OF PELIGRE, SINCE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HAD TOLD HIM LAKE TIRESIAS SUPPLIED MOST OF ISRAEL'S NEEDS), AND HOME RESERVOIRS AND OTHER SIMPLE METHODS FOR INDIVIDUALS TO SAVE RAINWATER.

3. I NOTED AID-FINANCED PILOT PROJECT NER LES CAYES WAS NOW ANALYZING WHETHER OLDER EXISTING IRRIGATION SYSTEMS COULD BE REHABILITATED AND MORE EFFICIENTLY MANAGED; THIS COULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR FUTURE PROJECT ON NATIONAL BASIS. I ALSO MENTIONED THAT JAMAICA HAD HIGHLY DEVELOPED SYSTEM OF WATER CATCHMENTS INTEGRATED WITH SOIL CONSERVATION METHODS AND SUGGESTED PRESIDENT SEEK TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM JAMAICA TO THIS PURPOSE, AN IDEA HE WELCOMED.

4. PRESIDENT NOTED HE HAD READ CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM OF HIS GOVERNMENT ON SCORE OF EFFORTS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WHEREAS, FOR EXAMPLE, GOH IN 1974 HAD SPENT \$4 MILLION TO ACQUIRE PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING TWO MODERN ASPHALT MIXING MACHINES, AND \$2 MILLION TO BUY AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING TRACTORS. IF U.S. HAD ANY WAY TO PROVIDE ASPHALT UNDER AID PROGRAM, THIS WOULD SAVE HARD CURRENCY AND WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.(COMMENT: I PLAN TO TELL HIM AT OUR NEXT MEETING THAT OUR AID PROGRAMS WOULD NOT ENVISAGE THIS FORM OF ASSISTANCE.)

5. PRESIDENT COMMENTED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL COASTAL SHIPPING FLEET WOULD GREATLY EASE PROBLEMS OF GETTING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE TO PORT-AU-PRINCE AND TO EXPORT MARKETS. I AGREED AND SAID WE WOULD EXAMINE HOW THIS MIGHT BE BROUGHT ABOUT, NOTING THAT IDB ON PAST RECORD SHOULD BE INTERESTED.

6. PRESIDENT NOTED THAT HAITI WAS ONLY CARIBBEAN ISLAND WITHOUT A FISHING FLEET, YET PRODUCTIVE WATERS EXISTED BOTH TO NORTH AND SOUTH. THIS ALSO MERITED EXAMINATION, AS WELL AS COMMERCIAL FACILITIES FOR FISH PROCESSING OR CANNING.

7. PRESIDENT CONCLUDED BY REITERATING THAT U.S. COULD ALWAYS COUNT ON HAITI TO STAND AT ITS SIDE ON ALL INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. I SAID WE UNDERSTOOD AND DEEPLY APPRECIATED THIS ATTITUDE. I LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OBSERVED THAT, AT A TIME WHEN CONGRESSIONAL SCRUTINY OF AID PROGRAMS WORLDWIDE WAS PARTICULARLY RIGOROUS AND WHEN CONGRESSIONAL ATTENTION WAS FOCUSED ON HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVANCE IN COUNTRIES RECEIVING ASSISTANCE, IT WAS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT THAT HAITI CONTINUE ON THE PATH OF INTERNATIONAL OPENNESS, DOMESTIC CALM, AND "INTELLIGENT

PRAGMATISM" (IN PRESIDENT'S PHRASE USED AGAIN IN APRIL 22 ADDRESS TO LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY). PRESIDENT DUVALIER SAID HE WOULD DO HIS

BEST.
ISHAM

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